

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 NEA-10 ISO-00 IO-11 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAM-01 OMB-01 /088 W

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R 091519Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4541

INFO AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

USMISSION NATO

USCINCEUR

USCINCUSNAVEUR

USUN 636

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 0976

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SP MO, SS, AL

SUBJECT: SAHARA DEVELOPMENTS

SUMMARY: SPECIAL UN ENVOY RYDBECK, AFTER TWO DAYS OF TALKS IN MADRID, HAS LEFT FOR SAHARA WHERE HE HAS ALREADY SEEN TRIPARTITE LEADERS AND MET WITH LOCAL ASSEMBLY. WHILE GOS MOVES TO PUT BEST LIGHT ON ITS WITHDRAWAL FROM SAHARA SOME OPPOSITION GROUPS HAVE SEIZED UPON ALLEGED ABANDONMENT OF SAHARAN PEOPLE TO ATTACK GOVT.
END SUMMARY.

1. VISITING UN ENVOY, SWEDISH AMBASSADOR RYDBECK FLEW FEB 7 FROM MADRID TO THE SAHARA VIA A SPANISH AIRCRAFT. DURING HIS TWO-DAY STAY, FEB 5-7, RYDBECK HELD MEETINGS WITH FONMIN AREILZA AND MINISTER OF THE PRESIDENCY OSORIO. MFA OFFICER IN CHARGE OF NORTH AFRICAN AFFAIRS
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TOLD EMBASSY THAT RYDBECK'S MISSION IS PRIMARILY TO

GATHER INFO FOR PREPARATION OF A REPORT FOR UNSYG ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY'S RESOLUTION ON THE SAHARA ADOPTED IN DECEMBER. AS PROMISED, GOS IS DOING WHAT IT CAN TO FACILITATE RYDBECKS MISSION.

2. RYDBECK IS EXPECTED TO REMAIN IN SAFARA FOR SIX DAYS AND RETURN TO MADRID WITHOUT VISITING MOROCCO OR MAURITANIA. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, HE HAS ALREADY HELD MEETINGS WITH SPANISH, MOROCCAN, AND MAURITANIAN LEADERS OF TRI-PARTITE ADMINISTRATION IN EL AIUUN AND ONE MEETING WITH LOCAL SAHARAN ASSEMBLY (YEMAA). RYDBECK IS REPORTED AS HAVING SAID TO YEMAA THAT " I HAVE COME TO VERIFY THE DESIRES OF THE SAHARAN PEOPLE FOR THE FUTURE OF THE TERRITORY." REPORTEDLY , ONLY 40 OF THE YEMAA'S STATUTORY MEMBERSHIP OF 102 WERE PRESENT. OTHER NEWS REPORTS SAY THAT MOROCCAN AUTHORITIES ARE TRYING TO SET UP A NEW YEMAA TO RATIFY THE MADRID TRIPARITE AGREEMENT AND FULFILL UNGA'S RESOLUTION'S REQUIREMENTS.

3. ONE MOROCCAN WAS REPORTEDLY KILLED AND FOUR OTHERS WOUNDED FEB 6 BY A LAND MINE ALLEGEDLY LAID BY THE POLISARIO SOME 90 KMS FROM EL AIUUN. THE F POLISARIO REPORTEDLY STAGED A SMALL DEMONSTRATION IN EL AIUUN AFTER RYDBECKS ARRIVAL BUT IT WAS QUICKLY CONTROLLED. PRESS REPORTS ALLEGE MORROCCAN AUTHORITIES "COERCED" SOME 3,00SAHARANS TO STAGE A PRO-MOROCCAN DEMONSTRATION FOR RYDBECK.

4. ACCORDING TO MFA AND INFO AVAILABLE TO DATT, SPANISH HAVE NO INDICATION EXCEPT UNCONFIRMED RUMORS OF THE PRESENCE OF CUBANS IN THE SAHARA. MFA SAID ONE SPANISH FOREIGN LEGION DESERTER, WHO HAD JOINED INSURGENT F POLISARIO, HAD BEEN CAPTURED BY MOROCCAN FORCES AND MIGHT HAVE BEEN MISREPRESENTED AS A CUBAN.

5. MFA DIRECTOR SAID THAT RECENTLY FORMED "ASSOCAITION OF FRIENDS OF SAHRANS" INCLUDES MANY PRESTIGIOUS NAMES IN SPAIN, SOME OF WHOM WERE USED AS CONSULTANTS IN PREPARING GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTATION FOR SUBMISSION TO THE INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE. MFA EXPECTS THIS GROUP TO BECOME ACTIVE

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AND, BECAUSE OF THE PRESENCE OF SOME OPPOSITION POLITICANS (MOSTLY SOCIALIST), COULD HAVE SOME IMPACT ON THE LOCAL SCENE, WITH REPECT TO RELIEF EFFORT, THE SPANISH CATHOLIC CHARITABLE ORGANIZATION "CARITAS" SENT AN INITIAL SHIPMENT OF FIVE TONS OF MEDICINES, 11 TONS OF FOOD, AND 1,000 BLANKETS TO ALGERIA BY AIR FEB 5 DESTINED FOR SAHARAN REFUGEES LOCATED IN THE AREA OF TINDOUF. MEAN WHILE A MODEST COLLECTION CAMPAIGN HAS BEEN STARTED FOR

FUNDS TO BE USED FOR ALLEVIATING THE CONDITIONS OF SAHARANS IN VARIOUS REFUGEE CAMPS.

6. THE "JUNTA" DEMOCRATICA" CONTROLLED BY THE COMMUNISTS (PCE). HELD MEETINGS FEB 1 AND 2 IN ALGIERS WITH FLN LEADERS. PRIOR TO THE MEETINGS PCE SEC GEN CARRILLO

GAVE AN INTERVIEW WITH "EL MOUDJAHID" EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE F POLISARIO AND CONDEMNING THE TRIPARTITE AGREEMENT AS A VIOLATION OF THE PRINCIPLES OF SELF DETERMINATION. AS AN OUTCOME OF THE JUNTA MEETINGS WITH REPS OF THE F POLISARIO IN ALGIERS, A COMMUNIQUE WAS ISSUED IN WHICH THE JUNTA PROMISED TO CONDUCT A CAMPAIGN OF POLITICAL AND MATERIAL SOLIDARITY FOR THE F POLISARIO'S STRUGGLE (SEE FBIS 72PU 0331713). THE POLITICAL OPPOSITION HAS ADDED THE SAHARAN ISSUE TO IT LISTS OF GRIEVANCES AGAINST THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT. THE RECENT REMOVAL OF COL. DE VIGURI, THE ACTING SPANISH MILITARY GOVERNOR OF THE SAHARA, BECAUSE OF HIS DISAGREEMENT WITH GOS POLICY, IS ONE OF THE VARIOUS INDICATIONS AVAILABLE TO THE EMBASSY AND TO DATT OF SOME DISILLUSIONMENT IN SPANISH MILITARY CIRCLES WITH THE MANNER OF SPAIN'S WITHDRAWAL FROM THE SAHARA. OPPOSITION GROUPS APPARENTLY HOPE TO DEEPEN WHATEVER DISAPPROVAL CAN BE FOUND WITHIN THE MILITARY AND IN THE GENERAL PUBLIC. STABLER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL SITUATION, DEBRIEFINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 FEB 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: coburnhl
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976MADRID00976
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760049-0449
From: MADRID
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760268/aaaachvu.tel
Line Count: 140
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: coburnhl
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <05 MAY 2004 by ellisoob>; APPROVED <07 SEP 2004 by coburnhl>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SAHARA DEVELOPMENTS SUMMARY: SPECIAL UN ENVOY RYDBECK, AFTER TWO DAYS OF
TAGS: PFOR, SP, MO, SS, AL, SW, (RYDBECK, OLOF)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006